

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1945

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the Year 1945.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

- “A” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “B” General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- “C” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “D” Housing.
- “E” Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “F” Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

SECTION “A”

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	3,204
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	2,276
Rateable Value	£104,584
Sum represented by one Penny Rate	£427
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid. 1945)	8,749

Vital Statistics for the area:—

Live Births.		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate		166	72	94
Illegitimate		25	11	14
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		191	83	108

The Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population was 21·8 for the Urban District.

The Birth rate for England and Wales was 16·1 for the same period.

Still Births.		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate		3	3	—
Illegitimate		2	2	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		5	5	0

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was 26.

Deaths.		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
		108	61	47

The Death rate was 12·3 per 1,000 estimated population.

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11·4 per 1,000 population.

Maternal Mortality Rate.

There were no deaths of Mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.

			<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	8	6	2
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—
			—	—	—
Total	...		9	7	2

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was 47.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the same period for England and Wales was 46.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1

The above figures are corrected to include residents of the Urban District only.

Causes of Death (including Transferable deaths).

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	6	9
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	2	7
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	10	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	9	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—	1
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	2
Premature Birth, Congenital Diseases and Malformations	...	...	...	...	4	—
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1
Violence	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	9	7
					—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	61	47

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Services. These are provided by the County Council at their laboratory in Worcester.

Ambulance Facilities. There has been no change in this service during the year.

Mortuary. Plans for the conversion of a building in Worcester Road into an up-to-date mortuary were approved by the Ministry of Health, and the work completed during the year.

Public Lavatories. A survey of public lavatory accommodation in the district was made during the year and plans for improvements were considered. Permission was obtained from the Ministry of Health to proceed with the building of much needed lavatory accommodation near the River-side.

Nursing in the Home. The Stourport and Wilden District Nursing Association employ three nurses and the Astley and Areley Kings Nursing Association employ one nurse. In addition to their work as district nurse midwives, these nurses do the Health Visiting in the area, and their duties include the visiting in their homes of children under 5 years of age, regular visits to cases of tuberculosis, and mentally defective cases, attending School Medical inspections and cases of minor ailments in the schools. They also attend the Infant Welfare Centres and ante-natal clinics and assist in the immunisation of children against diphtheria.

Clinics. An Ante-natal Clinic is held each week, and an Infant Welfare Clinic is held twice in each month at the Lucy Baldwin Home.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held twice in each month at the Parish Hall, Areley Kings.

Hospitals. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district with Maternity beds. During the year 415 cases were admitted to this hospital.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital. 8 cases of infectious Disease were admitted to the Hospital from Stourport during the year.

Cases of Tuberculosis requiring sanatorium treatment are sent to Knightwick Sanatorium or to Hill Top Hospital.

Treatment for cases of Venereal Disease is provided at the following hospitals:—

General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.

Kidderminster and District General Hospital.

Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water supply from Bewdley was satisfactory throughout the year. Samples were taken monthly from the source in Bewdley for analysis and these gave satisfactory results.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The disposal of sewage was satisfactorily dealt with at the sewage works throughout the year.

A number of pail closets in Wilden and Areley Kings were converted to the water carriage system during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year the Council became a member of the Midlands Joint Advisory Council for the Abatement of Smoke and Atmospheric Pollution, and appointed Colonel Robinson as its representative.

No action was taken during the year under Sections 101 to 106 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION "D"

Housing.

During the year plans for the first year's post-war housing programme were considered by the Council.

It was decided to proceed with the building of 104 houses on the Walshes Farm Estate.

A site in Wilden was selected for the erection of 50-60 permanent houses. Application was made to Government Departments by the Urban District Council for 100 temporary houses, but only 20 houses were allocated to the town. It was decided that these should be erected on the Council's site in Martley Road.

The Housing Manager reports that at the end of 1945 there were 383 council houses in the town and 9 houses had been requisitioned by the Council under the authority of the Ministry of Health. There was a waiting list of 575 applicants for Council houses and 332 of these applicants were living in lodgings.

At the end of 1939 there were 383 Council houses in the town, all occupied. There was a waiting list of over 400 applicants for Council houses at that time.

12 insanitary houses are still let on licence under Regulation 68AA of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939. Many more insanitary houses and cases of overcrowding should be dealt with under the Housing Acts, and it is hoped that this will be possible in the near future as the building schemes progress.

Town Planning.

During the year the Council engaged the services of Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd, F.R.I.B.A., P.P.T.P.I., as their Planning Consultant, to prepare an outline plan for the internal development of the district.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Adulteration of Foods.

I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Spencer of the Weights and Measures Department, Worcestershire County Council, for the information that 28 samples of Milk and 16 samples of other foods were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Two of the samples of Milk were found to be deficient in fat content and the vendors were cautioned.

SECTION "F"

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners was as follows:—

1. Pre-School Children	...	...	164
2. School Children	...	...	81
Total			245

At the end of 1945 the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0-5 and 5-15 years were 68% and 85% respectively.

Three cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.	} None of these cases had been immunised.
One death from diphtheria occurred during the year.	

Cases of infectious disease notified during the year are shown in the following Table.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Scarlet Fever ...	17	4	—
Diphtheria ...	3	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11	11	—
Primary Pneumonia ...	7	1	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—
Measles ...	171	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	7	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	2	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	4	1	1	4	2	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

MARGARET C. FELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Inspections and Notices.

During the year 675 visits of inspection and re-inspection were paid to houses and other premises under the various Acts, Byelaws and Regulations in connection with housing, abatement of nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. It was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings, but great difficulty was experienced in getting work done owing to the very great shortage of labour.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Details of the various notifiable diseases are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. As in previous years inspections, the supply of disinfectant and printed instructions has been continued.

Refuse Scavenging.

This work has been carried out by the Council's workmen and the details of the work are as follows:—

<i>Dry Refuse.</i>		<i>Liquid Refuse.</i>	
Dust Bins emptied	103,988	Cesspools emptied	140
Loads removed	1,176	Middens emptied	38
		Pails emptied	16,292
		Loads removed	833

This service has again been handicapped by the shortage of labour and unsatisfactory conditions have arisen through the acute shortage of galvanised iron dust bins to replace defective and worn out bins at a large number of houses.

Canal Boats.

All the canal boats examined were found to be satisfactory and no infringements of the regulations were observed. No case of infectious disease was notified amongst any of the persons using the boats. There were no applications for registration received during the year and no other matter arose to which it was necessary to draw the Council's attention.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were established during the year.

Water Supply.

The consumption of water for all purposes as recorded by the meters at Mount Pleasant during the year was 183,200,000 gallons. This was an increase of 8,899,000 gallons as compared with the previous year.

A further 28 houses and other premises were connected to the mains. The supply continued to be of excellent quality and in spite of the very abnormal increase in consumption no shortage was experienced and no restrictions had to be imposed.

Drainage and Closet Accommodation.

This work has been continued and the drains from 28 houses were connected to the sewers.

The pail closets at 64 houses were converted to the water carriage system and this work was proceeding at other properties at the close of the year.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

The following are the details of the materials collected and disposed of during the year.

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Waste Paper	...	...	...	42	15
Scrap Metal ...	...	...	...	1	12
Sacking	...	...	...	1	19
Rags	...	...	...	3	17
Bottles	...	...	...	6	1
Bones	...	...	...	1	0
Rope and String	...	...	...		8
Totals	...	...	...	57	12

The value of the above was £377 12s. 6d.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LEWIS H. POOLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

